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August 27, 2007

Hon. Susan Golding, Chair
Blue Ribbon Task Force
MLPA Initiative
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Additional Comments to Draft Master Plan for MLPA project

Dear Mayor Golding:

We have the following additional comments that have arisen recently from the recent Regional Stakeholder Meeting on August 22 and 23 as a supplement to our letter of July 25.

The first has to do with the science guidelines. The MLPA has called for the best science available. The Pacific Fishery Management Council utilizes a public process for reviewing the science used. It's a very healthy process that invariably greatly increases the level of stakeholder buy-in.

In the case of the current MLPA process many requests are being made for what underlying science has been used to build the current science guidelines but at best this has come forward slowly and in a piecemeal fashion. The process currently in place, to the extent it has been utilized, assists only the regional stakeholder group but falls short of informing the vast majority of stakeholders.

Providing the public explicit information on how the guidelines have been calculated and an opportunity to read the underlying science studies is an important element in educating the public about the need for the guidelines and the need for a network of MPAs. The descriptions of the existing guidelines should be reinforced in the master plan by noting, where absent, how the guideline was calculated and by providing footnotes to the underlying scientific sources used to calculate the guidelines. Additionally, we recommend that links be provided to supporting documents on the MLPA website. Using this approach will aid tremendously in educating the public for the need for the conservation measures being contemplated as well it will aid everybody in the process now and in the future in designing better proposals, monitoring, and ultimately adaptively managing the network.

TABLE 4-1 Sources of Costs and Benefits of Marine Protected Areas

Benefit	Cost
Strengthens property or liability rights to a clean marine environment	Purchase of land and facilities
New or improved opportunities: Tourism, diving, boating Recreational fishing	Forgone opportunities: Mineral ED&P Waste disposal Commercial fisheries Treasure salvage, shipping, tourism
Facilitates natural resource management Rare ecosystems, species, stocks, cohorts, habitat, refugium	Administration Monitoring and enforcement
Facilitates cultural resource management Archaeological study, resource protection, recreation "targets"	Administration Monitoring and enforcement
Oceanographic research Control area, ecosystem studies, public education	Research and education costs
Positive external effects Buffer zone, increased assimilative capacity, onshore development opportunities	"Paper park": Benefits small or nonexistent and industrial development opportunities forgone
Prevents development that is costly to reverse	Results in zoning decision that is costly to reverse
Nonmarket benefits Option—vicarious Bequest—existence	Nonmarket costs Option
Conceptual simplicity of boundary	Economic aspects of size rarely considered

SOURCE: Hoagland et al., 1995.

Summing up MPAs can be socio-economically beneficial even without looking beyond their borders. In addition the need to address this issue is recognized in both by goal 3 of the MLPA and by the objectives of the California Ocean Protection Act.

Therefore, we request that the BRTF request the science team provide an analysis of the various proposals regarding how they will incrementally increase our knowledge with each proposal regarding the recreational use of the ocean and the oceans resources inside of MPAs both for fully protected equivalence and for ones with less stringent restrictions designed to achieve the conservation goals that no-take reserves cannot achieve when used alone.

Sincerely,

Bob Osborn
Fishery Consultant
United Anglers of Southern California

Cc: Richard Rogers, President, Fish and Game Commission